[Mr. K. George.]

NOES—18.

1. Mr. L. R. Raja Raja Varma Koil Tampuran.	10. Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai. (*Tiruvalla.*)
2. ,, T. K. Velu Pillai.	11. ,, T. Kumara Pillai.
3. ,, P. T. Thomas.	12. ,, V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.
4. ,, N. Ramakrishna Pillai.	13. ,, C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.
5. The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.	14. ,, M. K. Khadir Pillai.
6. Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.	15. ,, A. Hoogewerf.
7. ,, P. K. Narayana Pillai.	16. ,, A. Govinda Menon.
8. ,, M. N. Pillai.	17. ,, T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.
9. ,, Joseph Panjikaran.	18. ,, S. Adam Sait.

The motion was declared carried.

DEMAND VII.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, SECRETARIAT, etc.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 5,000 for payment of travelling allowance to the non-official members of the Legislative Council. The allotment provided for the purpose in the year's budget was Rs. 12,000. Out of this, a portion, *viz.*, Rs. 3,356, was spent for payment of the bills of 1098 and the balance for payment of the bills of the current year, and thus the whole allotment has been exhausted. Including this, there will be two more meetings of the Council this year and the expenditure on account of travelling allowance to the non-official members in connection with these meetings is estimated at Rs. 5,000. Hence this amount has to be sanctioned as a supplementary grant.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I ask why the amount under "Travelling Allowance to members" was not correctly calculated at the time of the budget?

PRESIDENT: We have had a number of select committee meetings. Besides, we are having four meetings of the Council instead of three.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The revised estimate for 1098 was Rs. 17,000. If the additional sum of Rs. 5,000 now asked for is sanctioned, the total allotment will come to Rs. 17,000 only.

PRESIDENT: May I take it that the House sanctions the demand?

The grant was made.

DEMAND VIII.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, ACCOUNT OFFICE.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 750 under Demand VIII—General Administration—Account Office. This is to meet the pay

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

and travelling allowances of the special temporary staff consisting of one clerk on Rs. 40, one clerk on Rs. 25 and two peons on Rs. 9 each and one Assistant Account Officer who have been deputed for the detailed examination of the accounts of the Quilon Divisional Treasury. The circumstances under which the demand is made are, I believe, known to the members. Some time ago, certain discrepancies of a serious nature were brought to the notice of the Account Department, and at that time I deputed an Assistant Account Officer, Mr. Nilakanta Pillai, to make a special inspection of that treasury. It was found by an inspection that not only were there discrepancies but something more sericus with that treasury. It was found that there were certain defalcations and it was therefore deemed necessary that a thorough and a detailed examination of the treasury should be made; and so Government decided that the accounts of the treasury for the nineteen months beginning with Chingam 1098, during which period the late Treasury Officer, Mr. K. Sankaranarayana Aiyar, was in charge of the Treasury, should be gone into. The demand is made with a view to meet the cost of the special establishment that has been deputed for the purpose.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): May I know whether these accounts are being periodically examined by Dewan Peishkars?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): They make half-yearly inspections of the treasury. But, if the matter is gone into, it will be found that only by a detailed audit at the spot would defalcation be discovered. The Dewan Peishkars do make not only half-yearly inspections of the treasury, but they also examine the monthly cash balance of the treasury and send the accounts of receipts over their signature to the Account Officer. But that will not disclose a defalcation of the kind that has happened in the Quilon Treasury. As I have stated, it could be discovered only by a detailed and thorough scrutiny of the accounts of the treasury, which the Peishkars are not doing at present.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know when the audit of this particular treasury was made by the Account Officer?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Every-treasury account is sent to the Account Office and the detailed audit of expenditure is made by it. But the receipts are not audited either in my office or in the treasury, because the controlling officers are expected to audit the accounts of the receipts. So neither the Account Officer nor his Assistants make a detailed audit of the treasury accounts of receipts. The Account Officer inspects the accounts of the treasury only once in an year.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know when the last inspection of this particular treasury was conducted by the Account Officer?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The last inspection of the Quilon treasury was made by an Assistant Account Officer in Karkadakam 1098.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

PRESIDENT: May I take it that the House sanctions the demand?

The grant was made.

DEMAND IX.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2,350 under Demand IX – Administration of Justice. Sir, I believe this demand requires a little explanation, especially in view of the criticisms that were levelled against Mr. Robinson's demand. Unfortunately I belong to that unhappy lot of Sirkar Vakils whose work is very heavy and yet whose work is never appreciated.

In moving the demand, I will place before the House certain facts in order to disabuse the mind of the House of the false impressions that have crept in. In the first place, it is thought that Sirkar Vakils, especially those attached to the Head Sirkar Vakil's office—I include in that category myself and my assistants also—have not much work to attend to. And as an instance, Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai said that he knew the amount of work that the Assistant Sirkar Vakils had to do in the High Court. But even if that work alone is taken into consideration, it will be found that each of the two assistants attached to the Head Sirkar Vakil's office has got work before the High Court, day after day. That apart, I do not know whether my friend knows the inner working of the Head Sirkar Vakil's office.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I was referring only to their work in the High Court.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): In the first place, every written statement sent up has to be scrutinised by him.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether these Sirkar Vakils have not taken up private cases?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes, They have. I am coming to that point.

This means he has to read all the papers in the case and prepare a long memorandum to be placed before the Head Sirkar Vakil and the Dewan and prepare written statements in English. It is one portion of their work. Then, in the second place, every sessions case, whether ending in conviction or acquittal, is sent up to them, and the two Assistant Head Sirkar Vakils divide the cases between themselves. They will have to go through the judgments and the necessary papers and see whether, in cases of acquittal, any interference is necessary by way of an appeal or in case of conviction anything is to be done. All these they have to do and to put up office notes. And further they have to prepare for the day's cases—civil, criminal, and even revision petitions—that are posted before the High Court. For all these, they are paid Rs. 250 a month!

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly